

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SMS-01 IO-14 ACDA-12 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
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R 061424Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7545  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
USMISSION USNATO  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
USNMR SHAPE  
USDOCOSOUTH  
CINCUSNAVEUR  
CINCUSAFE  
CINCUSAREUR

UNCLAS ATHENS 7731

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, GR, U  
SUBJ: FOREIGN RELATIONS: KOSYGIN EXTENDS INVITATION TO KARAMANLIS  
TO VISIT USSR

REF: ATHENS 7700 (DTG 051620Z SEP 78)

1. THE GREEK MEDIA SEPTEMBER 6 CONTINUE TO GIVE PROMINENT  
COVERAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER RALLIS' VISIT TO THE SOVIET  
UNION. TODAY ALL GREEK NEWSPAPERS ACROSS THE POLITICAL  
SPECTRUM BANNER HEADLINED THE NEWS THAT SOVIET PRIME  
MINISTER KOSIGIN HAD INVITED PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS  
TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION. ALTHOUGH THE DEGREE OF EN-  
THUSIASM EXHIBITED BY THE NEWSPAPERS VARIED FROM LEFT  
TO RIGHT, ALL SHOWED PLEASURE AND SURPRISE THAT THIS IN-  
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INVITATION WAS EXTENDED DURING THE RALLIS VISIT RATHER THAN  
THROUGH SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO WHEN HE  
VISITED ATHENS ON A RETURN VISIT LATER.

2. THE INVITATION WAS SEEN BY MOST OF THE GREEK  
PRESS AS A MANIFESTATION OF A SOVIET DESIRE TO SPEED  
UP THE FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF BILATERAL RELATIONS

BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. KOSYGIN'S REMARK TO GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER RALLIS THAT "WE NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT THE ERRORS OF THE PAST" WAS WIDELY QUOTED. ATHENS RADIO REPORTED THAT THE KARAMANLIS' VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FIRST MONTHS OF 1979, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FROM MOSCOW. MEANWHILE, GREEK REPORTERS ACCOMPANYING RALLIS REPORT THAT HIS VISIT IS GOING WELL AND IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CORDIALITY.

3. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY IS GIVING DETAILED COVERAGE TO THE RALLIS TRIP IN ITS DAILY BULLETIN. AND AS IS CUSTOMARY IN THE CASE OF SUCH OFFICIAL VISITS, IT IS REPRODUCING THE FULL TEXTS OF STATEMENTS AND REMARKS BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIS SOVIET HOSTS. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL GOG COMMENT CONCERNING THE INVITATION TO KARAMANLIS TO VISIT MOSCOW. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING RALLIS, THE DATE OF SUCH A VISIT WILL BE FIXED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.  
MCCLOSKEY

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## Message Attributes

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